implementation. Having regard to the pace of growth, full Central assistance has been released in respect of nine Growth Centres. In 12 Grwoth Centres plots have been developed and allotment of plots have commenced. The other Growth Centres are at various stages of implementation. So far a total of Rs. 202.29 crores has been released to various State Governments under this Scheme.

(c) The old Growth Centre Scheme was introduced in 1983 and ceased to exist in 1988 when it was replaced by the new Growth Centre Scheme. 30 Growth Centres were selected under this Scheme in the "No-Industry Districts" for assistance. These Growth Centres were to be developed at a cost of Rs. 6 crores each out of which the share of the Central Government was limited to one-third of the total project cost. Infrastructure facilities provided under this Scheme included power, sub-stations, approach roads, water works, effluent discharge systems etc. Nine Growth Centres were completely assisted under this Scheme and some others partly. The Central Government released a total amount of Rs. 35.60 crores under this Scheme.

The new Growth Centre Scheme is more comprehensive; the Growth Centres proposed to be set up under the new Grwoth Centre Scheme are larger and to be set up at a total cost of about Rs. 23 to 30 crores.

(d) The main responsibility for industrial development rests with the state Governments. The Central Government supports and supplements their efforts. The Central Government is presently implementing two centrally sponsored schemes, that is the Growth Centre Scheme and the Transport Subsidy Scheme for accelerated development of backward areas. Besides, the Central Government is also implementing the Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme which is aimed primarily at development of small scale industries in rural and backward areas. The State Governments operate various Schemes which provide fiscal incentives and also provide subsidy in order to attract industries in backward areas.

गुजरात से खनिजों का निर्यात बढ़ाने हेतु कदम

2386. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वाणिज्य और खान मंत्रालयों ने गुजरात में उपलब्ध विभिन्न खनिजों के निर्यात हेतु संयुक्त रूप से एक समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम तैयार करने पर विचार किया है;

(ख) क्या खान मंत्रालय और खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम गुजरात के कच्छ, पंचमहल, बनास कांठा, मेहसाना और जूनागढ़ जिलों में पाये जाने वाले खनिजों और अयस्कों की मांग विदेशों में बढ़ावा देने हेतु पर्याप्त रुचि नहीं ले रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या उनका मंत्रालय और खान मंत्रालय गुजरात सरकार द्वारा बार-बार मांग किये जाने के बावजूद ऐसे निर्यातों हेतु पर्याप्त स्रोत जुटाने के लिए सहायता देने में अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त कर रहे हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इसके परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को वार्षिक रूप से कितने राजस्व की हानि हो रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया): (क) से (घ) जी, नहीं। गुजरात के कच्छ, पंचमहल, बनास कांठा, मेहसाना और जूनागढ़ जिलों में खनिजों का निर्यात, घरेलू उद्योग द्वारा उपयोग के लिए सुरक्षित 54% से अधिक एलुमिनियम तत्व वाले बॉक्साइट को छोड़कर, मुक्त रूप से किया जा सकता है। एम० एम० टी० सी० अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में इन खनिजों के लिए निर्यात बाजारों का पता लगाने के भरसक प्रयास कर रहा है।

Quota For Blind Women in Parliament and Assemblies

2387. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blind women have sought Quota in Parliament and Assemblies

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) In a resolution passed at the Workshop on women with disabilities organised by a NGO in October, 1996 it was, inter-alia resolved that atleast 5% reservation of seats for disabled women in the Parliament, State Legislatures and local bodies be allocated.

(c) Since the subject regarding reservation to Parliament and Assemblies is not dealt in this Ministry, the resolution has been referred to the separate Ministry.

Difficulties Faced by the Employees of PSUs opting for Voluntary Retirement

2388. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of employees of Public Sector Undertakings who opted for voluntary retirement scheme became paupers after some time;

(b) if so, whether Govt, propose to take measures like providing some training to acquire technical skill or social security through pension so that they are not reduced to poverty; and

(c) the other measures Govt, are taking to help the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) In order to safeguard the interest of the employees who availed of Voluntary Retirement Scheme with the assistance of National Renewal Fund, the Govt, have been providing counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers rationalised after July, 1991 through Employee Assistance Centres, set up by Nodal Agencies in 49 locations spread over 16 States.

Setting up of major industries in the North-Eastern Region

2389. SHRI ONWARD L. NONG-TDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up major industries in the North-East during the next five years period; and

(b) if so, the types of industries proposed to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A comprehensive package for North-East is under preparation.

Trade with Romania

2390. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania and India propose to take appropriate steps for creating institutional mechanism to treble the trade turnover by 2000 A.D. and to catalyse the Romanian investments into India showing negative trend since collapse of the Eastern Europe;

(b) if so, details thereof with background;

(c) whether the two countries have also agreed to set up ware-house in each other's country;

(d) whether the two countries have also agreed for marketing of the items in the third world countries besides setting up of joint venture projects in the power and petroleum sectors and Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with initiatives to be taken by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Romania have taken appropriate steps for creating institutional and other mechanisms to increase the